

Curtains drawn on RGU-hosted Film Festival

ITANAGAR, Mar 26: 'Borderland Narratives', the three-day festival of films from contemporary Northeast India, concluded at the premises of Rajiv Gandhi University on Monday on a positive note. It was felt that such festival provides a platform to the Northeastern filmmakers to showcase their diverse cultures and also to explore newer forms of expression. Attending the closing ceremony, RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha announced to make the festival a calendar event and also to provide Rs 5 lakh from the university besides mobilizing funds for its successful conduct. Calling for preservation of purity of language, he urged the student body of RGU to conduct an open campus programme on language preservation that would further help the tribal communities to learn and speak their languages/dialects. Appreciating the theme of the film 'Chori' directed by Tribeny Rai from Sikkim, Prof Kushwaha stressed on the importance of girl child in society. He said our society need to change its attitude towards girl child and the best way is to showcase truth through films. Being a torchbearers of society, the filmmakers need to bring changes in different aspects of life, he added. While giving away the awards to the filmmakers for short film competition, he asserted that making good films is more important than wining prizes adding that language should not be the barrier to express and the varsity will always welcome the 'good' things. Meanwhile, in the short film competition, Ya:Yo (Grandmother) directed by Amalendu Kaushik from Assam was declared the winner, while Badu: Lament of a fleeting Soul by Toni Perme received the Special Jury Award. The winning film received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh while the Special Jury awardee got Rs 25,000. River Story by Yapangnaro Longkum, The Vanishing Roots: Apatani Language and Culture by Dulley Tamang, Sweet Lemon by Tanom Jerang, Pialral-Ah by Napoleon RZ Thanga and Vanishing Roots by Tage Apa were the other films nominated for the Short Film competition category. In the last segment of the festival, the screening of Chori and III Smoking Barrels directed by Sanjib Dey was held. The second day of the Borderland Narratives, a Festival of Films from Contemporary Northeast India saw a decent turnout of film enthusiastic geeks from all walks of life. Expressing contentment on films screened, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, RGU said, "A film festival of this sort is one of a kind experience where one can come at par with the emerging issues and challenges faced by entire North East under one roof". He reiterated that one should not miss out on such an opportunity. Appreciating the content of the film screened on the first day titled 'Nana' directed by Tiakumzuk Aier, another film enthusiast expressed that the film holds close relevance in context of Arunachal Pradesh. Since the State's Assembly and Lok Sabha elections just around the corner, the film can be screened at every polling station for wider awareness. Tribeny Rai, a film director from Sikkim said that the festival has exceeded her expectation. Appreciating the untiring efforts of the festival organizer, she said 'I feel glad to be the part of the festival.' On Sunday, a workshop on the topic, Researching Film Content in Archives and in Community was conducted by resource person Wangphrang Deingdoh, who is the Director of the film Because We Did Not Choose, which is one of the participating films in the film festival. The participants who were mostly from the department of Mass Communication were briefed about the film making process. Clearing various doubts on the topic, the resource person shared his experiences in researching film content in archives and in the community. Films including Songs of the Mist by Kivini Shohe (Nagaland), Haja by Emang Debbarma (Tripura), Ma.Ama by Dominic Sangma (Meghalaya), Mighty Brahmaputra by Bappa Ray, Dhokbu by Dawa Lepcha (Sikkim), Sulhnu by K C Zoherliana (Mizoram) and Orunasol Man by Nyago Ete were screened on the second day of the festival. Meanwhile, in a run to promote local entrepreneurship, the women scholars of the university arranged a food court that served local cuisines was an instant hit. The festival featured 19 filmmakers representing eight Northeast states. The filmmakers showcased their films and participated in interactions with the audience. The film festival was organized by the AITS in collaboration with the IGNCAs NE regional centre, with the CCRD, the Mishmi Takin Centre for Endangered Languages and the RGU's mass communication department as the festival partners.

1. News published in: - ECHO OF ARUNACHAL
2. On 27th March 2019.
3. Type: Regional newspaper.
4. Place : Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh